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Identical letters dated 25 April 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 24 April 2000 addressed to you by Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the continuing blatant aggression against Iraq in the form of attacks by United States and British aircraft, which since December 1998 have resulted in the deaths of 295 Iraqi civilians and injury to 860 others, as well as the destruction of numerous civilian installations in Iraq, and Iraq's reassertion of its inalienable right to defend the sanctity of its territory and to seek compensation for the damage caused by that aggression.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 25 April 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to inform you that United States and British military aircraft, including F-14s, F-15s, F-16s, F-18s, Tornadoes and electronic surveillance aircraft, are continuing their blatant and unjustifiable violations of Iraqi airspace, taking off from their bases in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey.

From December 1998 to 20 April 2000, this campaign of aggression has resulted in the deaths of 295 Iraqi civilians and injury to 860 others. I should also like to inform you that the aircraft in question, in their attacks, use internationally banned weapons containing depleted uranium.

The allegations by the United States that Iraq's air defence weapons systems are attacked only in response to defensive fire against their aircraft constitute brazen effrontery; moreover, they are unfounded, in view of the fact that their aviators are engaged in bombing Iraqi civilian installations while enforcing aerial exclusion zones over both northern and southern Iraq without any authorization. This is unilateral, unlawful, illegitimate action that constitutes a monstrous aggression against Iraq and a flagrant violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

These acts of aggression represent the continuation of a policy of hostility against Iraq that is being consistently pursued by the United States of America and the United Kingdom and is aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. By the most elementary standards of international intercourse, this policy, which has been confirmed by United States and British officials, is a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the common custom of nations. All of the above make it clear that the use of force or the threat of force against the territorial integrity and independence of any State is illegitimate.

The logistical support provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the United States and United Kingdom makes them full accomplices in the aggression against Iraq, and they must share international responsibility for these acts.

The Government of Iraq will require the Governments of these States to bear full international responsibility for their criminal acts of aggression and the resulting damage and injury. It reserves its full and inalienable right, guaranteed by the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of international law and the common custom of nations, to take all necessary measures to defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq and the safety and security of its people, as well as its right to seek compensation for the human, moral and material damage inflicted upon it by these acts of aggression, in accordance with the principle of international liability.

(Signed) Mohammed Said **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq